



Light airplanes operating out of villages and towns on the Arctic Ocean are usually employed by American hunters for polar bear. The airplanes operate in pairs to locate a bear and then one airplane lands while the other remains aloft as a safety precaution in case the ice is unsafe. The second airplane is frequently used to herd the bear toward the waiting hunter.

The Boone and Crockett Club's action to remove polar bears from record competition was based in part on the question of fair chase involved in the use of airplanes. The undetermined status of the polar bear population was also instrumental in the Club's decision.

"I agree with you that using aircraft and other motorized equipment largely removes the important sporting element of fair chase in the hunting of polar bears," Secretary Udall commented.

Alaska's regulations prohibit the use of aircraft for molesting or herding polar bears in the State's territorial waters and also prohibits the killing of cubs or females with cubs. However, aircraft hunting is outside the three-mile limit and over international waters.

The Federal Government has no authority to control the methods of hunting or the harvest of polar bear. Alaska recently reduced the polar bear hunting season.

Alaska-based hunters are required to present the skin and skull of polar bears they have killed to State agents for examination. More than 75 percent of the polar bears killed by hunters operating from Alaska during the past six years have been males.

The 1965 harvest of polar bears from Alaska contributed about \$450,000 to the State's economy. Three Eskimo villages on the Arctic Coast receive considerable economic benefit as a result of this hunting.

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